

We Claim:

1. A locking configuration, comprising:

an adjustable steering column;

a fixed mounting;

a tilt-adjustable casing tube secured on said fixed mounting, said tilt-adjustable casing tube surrounding said adjustable steering column;

a locking device provided between said fixed mounting and said tilt-adjustable casing tube, said locking device having an actuating lever pivotable between a locking position and a release position such that said actuating lever pivots laterally next to or below said tilt-adjustable casing tube and such that the releases position is below the locking position;

said locking device having a handle component for said actuating lever, said handle component being disposed at a given distance from said tilt-adjustable casing tube when said actuating lever is in the locking position; and

said actuating lever being configured as a deformation element for absorbing energy wherein said actuating lever is

deformable in a crash such that said handle component moves toward said tilt-adjustable casing tube.

2. The locking configuration according to claim 1, wherein said actuating lever has an angled region formed with a predetermined buckling point.

3. The locking configuration according to claim 1, wherein said actuating lever has a hook-shaped bent region adjacent said handle component and is formed with a predetermined buckling point at said hook-shaped bent region.

4. The locking configuration according to claim 1, wherein:  
  
said actuating lever has a cross-sectional profile selected from the group consisting of a rectangular profile and a T-shaped profile; and

said actuating lever has a given region selected from the group consisting of an angled region and a bent region, said given region having a reduction in cross section for forming a predetermined buckling point.

5. The locking configuration according to claim 1, wherein:  
  
said actuating lever is formed of metal; and

said handle component has a metal core with a plastic coating and is screwed to said actuating lever.

6. The locking configuration according to claim 1, wherein:

said actuating lever is formed of steel;

said handle component has a metal core with a plastic coating; and

said actuating lever and said handle component are connected to one another as a two-part element.

7. The locking configuration according to claim 1, including:

a steering-column cladding surrounding said locking device and said tilt-adjustable casing tube;

said steering-column cladding having a receiving trough formed therein for accommodating said handle component; and

said receiving trough extending in a direction toward said tilt-adjustable casing tube and having a recess formed therein for providing a pass-through for said actuating lever.

8. The locking configuration according to claim 7, wherein said steering-column cladding is configured as a deformation element for absorbing impact energy.

9. The locking configuration according to claim 7, wherein:

said handle component has a side facing away from said steering column; and

said side of said handle component facing away from said steering column is disposed substantially flush with said steering-column cladding when said actuating lever is in the locking position.

10. The locking configuration according to claim 7, including deformation elements provided between said tilt-adjustable casing tube and said steering-column cladding.

11. In combination with a vehicle having an adjustable steering column, a fixed mounting and a tilt-adjustable casing tube secured on the fixed mounting and surrounding the adjustable steering column, a locking device, comprising:

an actuating lever pivotable between a locking position and a release position such that said actuating lever pivots

laterally next to or below the tilt-adjustable casing tube and such that the releases position is below the locking position;

a handle component connected to said actuating lever, said handle component being disposed at a given distance from the tilt-adjustable casing tube when said actuating lever is in the locking position; and

said actuating lever being configured as a deformation element for absorbing energy wherein said actuating lever is deformable in a crash such that said handle component moves toward the tilt-adjustable casing tube.